

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~plant~~ cucumber mosaic virus strain Y (CMV-Y) virus vector ~~characterized in that a part of the sequence of the 2b region of the RNA2 molecule of the Cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) wherein a region from a StuI site to a stop codon of an ORF encoding 2b protein of RNA2 is deleted, and a foreign gene introduction site is inserted into the part of the sequence.~~

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~plant~~ CMV-Y virus vector according to Claim 1 ~~[[2]], further comprising nucleotides 1 to 22 (CGAGGCCTGACGCGTGTACGTA) of SEQ ID NO: 1) wherein a region comprising StuI-stop-MluI-SnaBI is introduced into in the StuI site-AvrII region of pCY2.~~

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~gene recombinant vector, comprising~~ characterized in that a cucumber mosaic virus strain Y (CMV-Y) vector wherein a region from a StuI site to a stop codon of an ORF encoding 2b protein of RNA2 is deleted and a foreign gene polynucleotide encoding a protein is introduced into the StuI site and MluI region of the plant virus vector defined in Claim 4.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~gene-expression~~ expressing a polynucleotide in a plant ~~plants eharacterized in that a foreign gene is introduced so as to be stably expressed in a plant using the gene recombinant~~ comprising introducing the recombinant vector defined in Claim 6 in a manner to stably express the protein encoded by the foreign polynucleotide in the plant.